GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4104
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
EXTENSION OF NELP-I & II
BIKRAM KESHARI DEO

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Exploration Licensing Policy-I and NELP-II would be extended to the Orissa Coast and Mahanadi basin and deep waters;

(b) if so, whether the same would be included in NELP-III;

(c) if so, whether Mahanadi Oil Fields was doing the survey and test-wells had yielded positive results;

(d) if so, whether the activity of oil and gas exploration has slowed down; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (e):- The Government have signed contracts with various companies in respect of seven exploration blocks i.e. one block in the State of Orissa, besides, four blocks in shallow water and two blocks in deep water area in the adjoining Mahanadi basin for exploration and production of oil and gas in the first and second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). The above exploration blocks were identified and offered for bidding based on the pre-exploratory surveys made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH). No block was offered in Orissa and Mahanadi basin under NELP-III. The exploration work in offshore and deep water blocks is progressing as per the work programme committed in the bid by the awardee companies. The exploration work in the onland block can be started by the awardee company after grant of Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) by the State Government.